

Appin. No.: 10/678,691
Amendment Dated: November 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: May 26, 2006

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-17, 19-21 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerschner (US 4,993,136) in view of Miller (US 6,218,910). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a plurality of alignment features...
...a plurality of linear units...
...a sliding unit for...
 ...changing position of said linear units...or...changing position of
 said alignment features...
...in order to change said docked distance.

As set forth in the preamble of Applicants' claim 1, Applicants have claimed an apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral. This is done because the test head and the peripheral have very fragile electrical contacts. If the test head and the peripheral come to close, then the electrical contacts will be smashed. Depending upon the application, and depending upon the electrical contacts, the appropriate distance between the test head and the peripheral will vary.

By Applicants including their claimed sliding unit, it is possible to change the distance at which the test head and the peripheral are docked. Thus, for example, as set forth in Applicants' Figure 1, u-frame 401 can be moved into a plurality of different positions. Changing the location of u-frame 401 will change the distance at which the test head and peripheral are considered to be docked. This is described in the originally-filed application at page 11, lines 6-17. No new matter has been added.

The prior art of record does not disclose this feature. Kerschner includes upper section 12 which is lowered during probe testing. Kerschner neither discloses nor suggests Applicants claimed feature of a sliding unit which can change the position at which structure

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analogous to Applicants' claimed features is docked. Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Applicants' claim 12, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

While the outstanding rejection also cites the Miller patent, Miller was cited solely for the feature of electrical contacts. Thus, even by combining Miller with Kerschner, Applicants' claims do not result.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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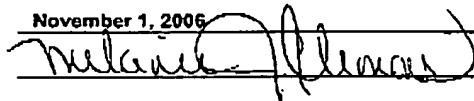
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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (571-273-1963) on the date shown below.

November 1, 2006



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